GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
TEACHER ABSENTEEISM IN SCHOOLS
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of reports of teacher absenteeism in the Government schools and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding teachers' attendance in schools and if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide performance-based incentives to teachers in Government schools and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to launch an online attendance system to monitor attendance of teachers and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other positive steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 354 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2014 ASKED BY SHRI PREM DAS RAI REGARDING 'TEACHER ABSENTEEISM IN SCHOOLS'

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) commissioned studies through an independent agency in 2007 and 2013 which revealed that average teachers attendance improved from 81.7% in 2006-07 to 84.8% in 2012-13 at primary level, and from 80.5% in 2006- 07 to 83.1% in 2012-13 at upper primary level.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed Performance Indicators of Elementary School Teachers (PINDICS) to track teachers' performance and attendance in the school. All States/UTs have been requested to use these indicators to assess teachers performance.

Teacher recruitment and teacher cadre management is in the realm of State governments. No information on State mechanisms to track teacher attendance is maintained centrally.

Section 24(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates that the teachers will complete the curriculum. As per Section 27 of the RTE Act, no teacher shall be deployed for any non-educational purposes other than the decennial population census, disaster relief duties or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislatures or Parliament, as the case may be. States/UTs have been financially supported for conducting State level Achievement Surveys (SLAS) for monitoring student performance for an indirect feedback on teaching learning practices in schools. The school management committees have been assigned the duty under the RTE Act to monitor teacher's attendance in schools.